

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the final Office Action dated September 8, 2005. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 9, 11, 12, 14, 17, 19, 20, 22 and 70 to 78 are presented for examination, with Claims 8, 16 and 24 having been cancelled, and Claims 25 to 69 having been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 9 and 17, all of which are independent, have been amended. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 8, 16 and 24 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claims. In keeping with the indication of allowable subject matter, Applicant has amended each of the rejected independent claims to include the substance of Claim 8, 16 or 24, and these claims have consequently been cancelled. Consequently, independent Claims 1, 9 and 17 as amended, together with their dependent claims, are seen to be in condition for allowance.

The Office Action entered a rejection of Claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 12, 14, 17, 20, 22, 70, 71, 73, 74, 76 and 77 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,438,752 (McClard). The foregoing actions have been taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding correctness of the rejections, but rather strictly to obtain an earlier allowance.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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